

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and identified in the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) Process for access to multimedia elements stored by means of digital data, an image (a, b, c, d, e, ..., m, n) being associated with each element so as to control access to the latter, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, when one wishes to access one of these elements,
 - a first group of images (b, c, e, f, g; a, j, e, f, g) associated with first elements is displayed, and
 - means for displaying a second group of images (i, e, k, m, n; b, c, e, k, m) associated with second elements, which group is distinct from the first group of images, are associated with at least one of these displayed images (e).
2. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein means for displaying a third group of images associated with third elements, which group is distinct from the second group of images, are associated with at least one of the images of the second group of images (i, e, k, m, n; b, c, e, k, m).
3. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein a first group of images is displayed automatically as soon as means for displaying images are activated.
4. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~, wherein when an operation is performed on a multimedia element such as the display thereof, the storage thereof or the transmission thereof, means activating the display of a first group of images (b, c, e, f, g; a, j, e, f, g) are displayed.
5. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~, , wherein when a group of images is displayed, means controlling operations, such as a modification, a storage or a transmission, are also displayed.
6. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the number of images displayed is less than ten, preferably less than six.
7. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~, Claim 1, wherein the elements corresponding to one and the same selection criterion forming a group (204₁, 204₂, 204₃, 204₄, 204₅, 204₆), images associated with elements belonging to one and the same group are displayed in a group.

8. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein one selects an image and/or a group from which are chosen images displayed by considering at least one of the following criteria: a frequency of access, a date of storage, a file size, technical parameters specific to the associated images such as a predominance of colour or the presence of determined reliefs in this image, a theme associated with the element, membership of one and the same semantic group, a similarity relating to the nature and/or to the content of the element, a random decision or a user's preferences.
9. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the multimedia elements relate to video sequences, images, pieces of music and/or texts.
10. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein a multimedia element relating to a photograph or to a video sequence, the image associated with this element is generated from this photograph or from this video sequence.
11. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein an element is accessed by generating the display thereof.
12. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the displaying of the images is performed according to a chronological mode or according to a thematic mode.
13. (currently amended) Device ~~(200)~~ for access to multimedia elements stored by means of digital data, an image ~~(a, b, c, d, e, ..., m, n)~~ being associated with each element so as to access the latter, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it comprises means for ~~(210)~~,
- displaying a first group of images ~~(b, c, e, f, g; a, j, e, f, g)~~ associated with first elements, and
 - controlling, on the basis of one of the images displayed, the displaying of a second group of images ~~(i, e, k, m, n; b, c, e, k, m)~~, associated with second elements, which group is distinct from the first group of images.
14. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it comprises means for associating with at least one of the images of the second group means for displaying a third group of images, associated with third elements, which group is distinct from the second group of images.
15. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 13 ~~or 14, characterized in that~~ , wherein it comprises means for automatically displaying a first group of images as soon as means of display of images are activated.

16. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, ~~14 or 15, characterized in that~~ wherein it comprises means for displaying means activating the display of a first group of images (~~b, c, e, f, g; a, j, e, f, g~~) upon an operation on a multimedia element such as the display thereof, the storage thereof or the transmission thereof.
17. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 13 to 16,~~ Claim 13, wherein it comprises means for displaying images according to a chronological mode or according to a thematic mode.